



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Health Services

At its meeting held October 19, 2004, the Board took the following action:

66-B

Supervisor Burke made the following statement:

"We all know that Los Angeles County, as well as the Nation, is suffering from a major shortage of the flu vaccine. With the U.S. flu vaccine supply cut in half, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services had to cancel our annual flu immunization program.

"Since fewer people will be vaccinated, there will be an increase in the number of residents who will suffer from the flu and medical complications stemming from the flu. Therefore, we can expect a temporary surge in the usage of our emergency rooms. To treat these residents, hospitals and clinics will be relying on antiviral drugs, which are an important second step of defense against the flu and can halt the spread of the flu virus once it invades the body."

Therefore, on motion of Supervisor Burke, seconded by Supervisor Knabe, unanimously carried, the Director of Health Services was instructed to report back at the Wednesday, November 3, 2004 Board meeting on the following issues:

1. How the increase of patients would impact Los Angeles County's already overcrowded emergency rooms, including what plans must be implemented to address this increase; and

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2. What actions the Department is taking to ensure that Los Angeles County has an adequate supply of anti-viral drugs or other treatments, including vaccines that exist for the prevention of pneumonia and meningitis, which may follow the flu.

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Copies distributed:

- Each Supervisor
- Chief Administrative Officer
- County Counsel
- Director of Public Health